

# **Environmental Assessment**

## **Big Hole River Riparian Habitat and Streambank Improvements - McDowell Reach**

**September 2007**



***Montana Fish,  
Wildlife & Parks***

# **Environmental Assessment MEPA, NEPA, MCA 23-1-110 CHECKLIST**

## **PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION**

- 1. Type of proposed state action:** proposing to implement and provide funding to enhance the riparian vegetative community and streambank stability within a six-mile reach of the Big Hole River. The treatments involved in the project include: 1) transplanting approximately 200 mature willows along 1,785 linear feet of outside stream bank 2) sculpting approximately 800 linear feet of stream bank 3) transplanting approximately 790 square feet of sedge mats 4) installing sedge mats along 60 linear feet of a down cutting side channel to the Big Hole River 5) approximately 2,282 linear feet of streambank stabilization using local, native vegetation and 6) planting of willow cuttings along approximately 2,300 linear feet of streambank. The project will be protected by existing riparian fence. The intent of the project is to enhance habitat for fluvial Arctic grayling and other native and sport fish species within this reach of the Big Hole River. The project site is located on property owned by the John and Phyllis Erb approximately 2.0 miles south of the community of Wisdom in Beaverhead County.
- 2. Agency authority for the proposed action:**  
  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is required by law to implement programs that manage sensitive fish species in a manner that assists in the maintenance or recovery of those species, and that prevents the need to list species under 87-5-107 or the federal Endangered Species Act. Section 87-1-201(9)(a), M.C.A.
- 3. Name of project:** Big Hole River Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Enhancement Project – McDowell Reach
- 4. Name, address and phone number of project sponsor (if other than the agency):** N/A
- 5. Anticipated Schedule:**  
Estimated Construction Commencement Date: November 2007  
Estimated Completion Date: December 2008  
Current Status of Project Design (% complete): 90% complete
- 6. Location affected by proposed action:**  
  
The project site is located on property owned by John and Phyllis Erb approximately 2.0 miles south of the community of Wisdom in Beaverhead County.

7. **Project size -- estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:**

	<u>Acres</u>		<u>Acres</u>
(a) Developed:		(d) Floodplain	<u>0</u>
Residential	<u>0</u>		
Industrial	<u>0</u>	(e) Productive:	
(existing shop area)		Irrigated cropland	<u>0</u>
(b) Open Space/	<u>0</u>	Dry cropland	<u>0</u>
Woodlands/Recreation		Forestry	<u>0</u>
(c) Wetlands/Riparian	<u>125</u>	Rangeland	<u>0</u>
Areas		Other	<u>0</u>

8. **Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) **Permits:** permits will be filed at least 2 weeks prior to project start.

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permits</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	SPA 124
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Section 404 Permit
Department of Environmental Quality	318 Authorization

(b) **Funding:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$409,643.00

(c) **Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:**

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
Montana Department of Natural Resources And Conservation	Water Rights

9. **Narrative summary of the proposed action or project including the benefits and purpose of the proposed action:**

One goal within Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks' six-year plan of operation for the fisheries program is to "restore and enhance degraded habitat" by implementing habitat restoration projects. This proposed project would help achieve this goal.

The upper Big Hole River Basin, with the exception of a few attempts at re-founding fluvial grayling in several southwestern Montana waters, supports the last river dwelling Arctic grayling in the lower 48 states. These fish are classified as a "species of special concern" in Montana because of their low numbers and shrinking distribution.

Sparse willow vegetation, poor pool development, eroding stream banks, and the loss of multiple threaded channels characterize the 0.8-mile reach on the Big Hole River that is proposed for restoration. The existing degraded conditions are primarily due to historic overgrazing within the riparian corridor, the active removal of willows, and the intentional blocking of side channels with earthen berms. The degraded channel and riparian conditions are currently providing marginal habitat for fluvial Arctic grayling and other

species of fish.

By improving the degraded channel, streambank, and riparian conditions, the overall habitat for the existing grayling populations in this stretch of river will be enhanced. The channel is expected to narrow, and pool habitats will deepen over time increasing the carrying capacity for grayling and other sport fish.

**10. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:**

**Alternative A: No Action**

If no action is taken, this reach of the upper Big Hole River will remain degraded. The carrying capacity for fluvial Arctic grayling and other species of fish will remain below potential and the riparian vegetative community will continue to be overgrazed by livestock.

**Alternative B:**

Under this alternative, the stream corridor would be protected from overgrazing by livestock by the existing riparian fence and development of a grazing plan. Unstable streambanks would be allowed to continue to erode until such time as they reached a stable angle of repose and re-vegetation occurred naturally. The time period required for recovery for this alternative is unknown, but it certainly would be significantly longer than for the preferred alternative.

**Alternative C: Proposed Action**

The proposed alternative is designed to enhance overall aquatic and riparian habitat within a six mile reach of the upper Big Hole River. Fluvial Arctic grayling, as well as other species of fish residing in the river, would benefit by protecting the riparian corridor with fencing, development of a grazing plan, and re-establishing a healthy riparian corridor.

## **PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW CHECKLIST**

### **3. Evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Action including secondary and cumulative impacts on the Physical and Human Environment.**

#### **A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

1. <b><u>LAND RESOURCES</u></b>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. **Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?			X		Yes	1a.
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil, which would reduce productivity or fertility?			X		Yes	1b.
c. **Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?			X		Yes	1d.
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other:						

#### **Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

**Comment 1a.** Soils along the stream margin would be disturbed during the installation of willow transplants and sprigs. Soils disturbed by construction will be re-seeded with native vegetation, and re-graded banks will be stabilized with the placement of dense sod mats and transplanted willow clumps.

**Comment 1b.** Soils along the stream margin would be disturbed during the installation of willow transplants and sprigs. Soils disturbed by construction will be re-seeded with native vegetation, and re-graded banks will be stabilized with the placement of dense sod mats and transplanted willow clumps.

**Comment 1d.** Short-term increases in turbidity will occur during project construction. To minimize this dynamic, construction will occur at low flows, and the operation of equipment in the stream channel will be minimized to the extent practical. The Department of Environmental Quality will be contacted to determine narrative conditions required to meet short-term water quality standards and protect aquatic biota. A 124 permit (Stream Protection Act) will be obtained from MFWP, and a 404 permit will be obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

2. <u>AIR</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. **Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (Also see 13 (c).)		X				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ***For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge, which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a.)		X				
f. Other:						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

3. <u>WATER</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. *Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?			X		Yes	3a.
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c.)		X				
m. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a.)		X				
n. Other:						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

**Comment 3a.** Short-term increases in turbidity will occur during project construction. To minimize this dynamic, construction will occur at low flows, and the operation of equipment in the stream channel will be minimized to the extent practical. The Department of Environmental Quality will be contacted to determine narrative conditions required to meet short-term water quality standards and protect aquatic biota. A 124 permit (Stream Protection Act) will be obtained from MFWP and a 404 permit will be obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

4. <b>VEGETATION</b>  Will the proposed action result in?	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X		No	4a.
b. Alteration of a plant community?			X		No	4b.
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?			X		No	4d.
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			X		Yes	4e.
f. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?		X				
g. Other:						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Vegetation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

**Comment 4a.** The project seeks to re-establish native willow species in the riparian areas within the project area. Existing riparian fence will temporarily reduce the amount of available cropland (native and non-native grass species) to the landowner by approximately 125 acres.

**Comment 4b.** The project seeks to re-establish native willow species in the riparian areas within the project area. Existing riparian fence will temporarily reduce the amount of available cropland (native and non-native grass species) to the landowner by approximately 125 acres.

**Comment 4c.** Existing riparian fence will temporarily reduce the amount of available cropland (native and non-native grass species) to the landowner by approximately 125 acres.

**Comment 4e.** The project will include ground disturbing activities that may result in the establishment of noxious weeds. The potential for this dynamic to occur will be recognized and reduced by cleaning vehicles and equipment entering and leaving the project site. Also, only certified weed-free mixes will be used for reseeding of disturbed areas. A management plan is also being developed for the project site to control and eliminate noxious weeds after construction of the project.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



<b>** 5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u></b>  <b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>	<b>IMPACT *</b>					
	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>	<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?			X		No	5b.
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?			X		No	5c.
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f.)		X				
i. ***For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d.)		X				
j. Other:						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Fish and Wildlife:**

**Comment 5b.** The proposed action is designed to increase the diversity and abundance of animal and bird species including game species.

**Comment 5c.** The proposed action is designed to increase the diversity and abundance of animal and bird species including nongame species.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## B. HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X		Yes	6a.
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other:						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Noise/Electrical Effects (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

**Comment 6a.** The proposed action includes the use of heavy equipment that may increase existing noise levels. All equipment will have properly functioning noise reduction equipment to limit the level of increase in noise.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

7. <u>LAND USE</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?			X		No	7a.
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other:						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Use (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

**Comment 7a.** Existing riparian fence will temporarily reduce the amount of available cropland (native and non-native grass species) to the landowner by approximately 125 acres.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan, or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)		X				
e. Other:						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Risk/Health Hazards (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u>  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other:						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Community Impact (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify:		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased use of any energy source?		X				
e. **Define projected revenue sources		X				
f. **Define projected maintenance costs.		X				
g. Other:						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Public Services/Taxes/Utilities**  
(attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

<b>** 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u></b>  <b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>	<b>IMPACT *</b>					
	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>None</b>	<b>Minor</b>	<b>Potentially Significant</b>	<b>Can Impact Be Mitigated</b>	<b>Comment Index</b>
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?			X		Yes	11b.
c. **Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report.)		X				
d. ***For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c.)		X				
e. Other:						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

**Comment 11b.** The proposed action would negatively affect aesthetics during project construction because of ground disturbance and the presence of heavy equipment. These negative effects would be relatively short term, and the number of heavy equipment will be relatively few with only a maximum of two excavators working at one time.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. **Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ****For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a.)	X					12d.
e. Other:						

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

**Comment 12d.** The proposed action will require an individual Army Corp of Engineers 404 permit. Therefore, the State Historic Preservation Office will be contacted to determine the need for compliance with the federal historic preservation regulations. The project will not begin until a cultural clearance is granted.

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.

## SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. <u>SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE</u>  Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:	IMPACT *					
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant	Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources that create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ***For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e.)		X				
g. ****For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						13g.

**Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Significance Criteria (attach additional pages of narrative if needed):**

**Comment 13g.** Federal or State Permits Required: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks - SPA 124; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Section 404 Permit; Department of Environmental Quality - 318 Authorization

\* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or cannot be evaluated.

\*\* Include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

\*\*\* Determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

\*\*\*\* Include a discussion about the issue in the EA narrative and include documentation if it will be useful.



2. **Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:** None

### **PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT**

No significant adverse impacts are anticipated to native species, water resources, unique landforms, or the human environment. All the minor impact identified in the Environmental Review section of this EA will be only for the duration of the proposed action or can be mitigated. The permanent affects of the transplantation of the willow and stabilization of the streambanks will improve the habitat conditions for both aquatic and terrestrial species, in particular, the habitat for fluvial Arctic grayling populations.

### **PART IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

1. **Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any, and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?**

The public will be notified through publication in The Dillon Tribune and The Montana Standard and through contact with the local watershed and sports groups. This EA will also be published on the Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks web page (<http://fwp.mt.gov/default.html>) and the Arctic Grayling Recovery Program web page (<http://www.graylingrecovery.org>). This level of public involvement is believed adequate for the proposed project.

2. **Duration of comment period, if any.**

The public comment period for this proposed action is from September 30, 2007 to 5:00 pm on October 30, 2007. Written comment can be submitted through the FWP web page or mailed to:

Peter Lamothe  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
730 N. Montana St.  
Dillon, MT 59725  
E-mail: [plamothe@mt.gov](mailto:plamothe@mt.gov)

### **PART V. EA PREPARATION**

1. **Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? (YES/NO)? No**  
**If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action.** We conclude from this review that the proposed activities will not have a significant impact on the physical and human environment.

**2. Name, title, address and phone number of the person(s) responsible for preparing the EA:**

Peter Lamothe – Fisheries Biologist  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
730 N. Montana St., Dillon, MT 59725  
406-683-2675

**3. List of agencies consulted during preparation of the EA:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks – Fisheries Division  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Confluence Consulting, Inc.

**APPENDICES**

1. Location map of the proposed action.



## Appendix 1. Location map of the proposed action.

